

NEW POTENTIAL PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

MADAGASCAR

In mid-May 2008, two EWB Denver engineers visited a remote village in Madagascar whose only drinking water supply is a tainted river. We will be assessing the feasibility of developing a possibly cleaner ground water supply to minimize water borne diseases in the villagers.

HONDURAS

In May 2008, a team of engineers conducted an assessment trip to a village whose sewage treatment lagoon has been damaged by two hurricanes. We are beginning to assess whether the lagoon needs to be repaired, replaced, or expanded.

THE PROJECT PROCESS

- NGO Representative applies for EWB assistance (fills out form)
- NGO presents to local chapter (optional)
- Local chapter accepts, submits another form to EWB-USA (Tech. Advisory Comm.)
- Fundraising for travel expenses & mats
- Assessment trip(s) to the project site
- Design process (EWB-USA must approve)
- Implementation trips to build the project(s)
- Follow up project performance

EWB does not swoop into a community, build a project, hand it off to the villagers, and move on to the next challenge. Our policy is one of continuing contact and communication with the host community to insure that the project fits the original design intent and is sustainable without us.

DO YOU CARE TO DONATE?

Tax-deductable donations to support EWB Denver's efforts and projects are gratefully accepted.

Checks should be made payable to:

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS-USA

Be sure to write Denver Chapter in the comment line of the check for us to receive the funds. If you like, you can designate a specific project by citing the project country: e.g., Ecuador, Togo, Madagascar, or Honduras in the comment line as well.

Checks should be mailed to EWB-USA offices:

1811 Lefthand Circle, Suite A-1

Longmont, CO 80501

Phone: 303-772-2723

FUTURE FUND RAISING EVENTS

The Chapter held a very successful Sand Sculpture Contest in August 2007 in conjunction with the Lakewood on Parade festival. Teams had 4 hours to create their sculptures from 3 cubic yards of sand. It was a lot of fun. We are planning to restage the event on August 9th, 2008 at the Soda Lakes Beach in Lakewood's Bear Creek Lake Park and will be seeking companies and organizations to enter teams. The contest rules and more details are posted on our website.

[www.ewbdenver.org/
2008-sand-sculpture](http://www.ewbdenver.org/2008-sand-sculpture)



DENVER CHAPTER ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Thinking Locally – Acting Globally



www.ewbdenver.org

Monthly meetings are held at the University of Denver Engineering Building every 2nd Tuesday at 7PM

See our website for a map and directions to the meeting and learn more about our projects and us

July, 2008

EWB-USA Mission Statement

www.ewb-usa.org

Engineers Without Borders - USA (EWB-USA) is a non-profit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. This partnership involves the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while involving and training internationally responsible engineers and engineering students.

As of mid-2008, Denver EWB has two major projects and several in the “pipeline”. As that suggests, all of the Chapter’s current projects involve water supply and/or sanitation. An engineering degree is not a prerequisite for membership; we welcome translators, health care professionals, or anyone interested in making a difference. A lot of our engineering solutions, by necessity, are “low-tech”. Although we are a chartered professional chapter, college students are welcome. You don’t even have to travel to be a valued project team member.

Annual membership fees are \$100.

2008 Contacts

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Malingua Pamba Project, Ecuador

The Denver Chapter has been involved with improving water delivery in Malingua Pamba (MP), village of about 300 people in Ecuador, since August of 2006.



This was our Chapter’s first project. The village has an existing potable water system and rudimentary parts of an irrigation system, both of which are in need of repair and redesign to maximize their respective functionalities. MP is in mountainous terrain in the Ecuadorian Andes at an elevation of about 10,000 feet. Currently, water is piped from uphill seeps, springs, and streams down to the village. Because of the steep terrain, the water delivery system traverses huge elevation drops, resulting in pipeline pressures in the hundreds of psi. This causes frequent pipe failures, especially in the village taps or at weak connections in the pipe systems. Fortunately, water quality is not an issue as the uphill sources appear to be protected from contamination.

Since EWB-Denver’s involvement in this project, we have been developing close relationships with the local community to identify improvements to the water systems. In our most recent trips to MP, a group of five Chapter engineers repaired sections of severed pipes, installed new taps to withstand higher pressures, fixed a shower in the local elementary school (now the village can attract a full-time resident teacher!) and with the villagers’ help, our EWB team built a water pressure relief tank and a spring water collection box. **This effort is featured in a 17-minute video; a link to it is found on www.ewbdenver.org.**

Our greatest success was the founding and training of the MP Master Plumbers: a group of MP residents who are the local experts in water system installation and repair, thus increasing the long term sustainability of our work.

Our fourth implementation trip to MP was in April, 2008.

Agou Avedje Project, Togo, Africa

Agou Avedje is located in the southern region of Togo, Africa and has a population of about 600. The village has no financial means, or solid plans for community development and the villagers depend on the national government for assistance which was last received in the early 1990s. Initially, the local Water Committee’s view was that water quantity was their primary concern. This was based on the sorry conditions of their eight hand-dug wells which are unreliable and contaminated; to compound matters, the water production from the wells during the annual dry season is barely enough to supply the village. Basic sanitation is also lacking which has led to endemic dysentery and malaria cases. The goal of this project is to provide reasonable alternatives to the people of Agou Avedje for their development as a sustainable community.

An EWB site assessment trip in early 2007 researched current and projected water needs, water sources, water supply and delivery options, sanitation issues, and the villagers’ expectations. In August 2007, the Togo Project Team sent the “Proposed Community Development Plan” to the village and in-country NGO partners via email and hard copies in French and English. The response was surprising: the villagers cited **Sanitation** as their highest priority followed by **Water Supply and Storage**. A second trip to the site, this time focusing on sanitation issues, was completed in February 2008; a crew built a demonstration eco-latrine unit and delivered household water filters.

